History of Cedar Church

100th Anniversary

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIVE

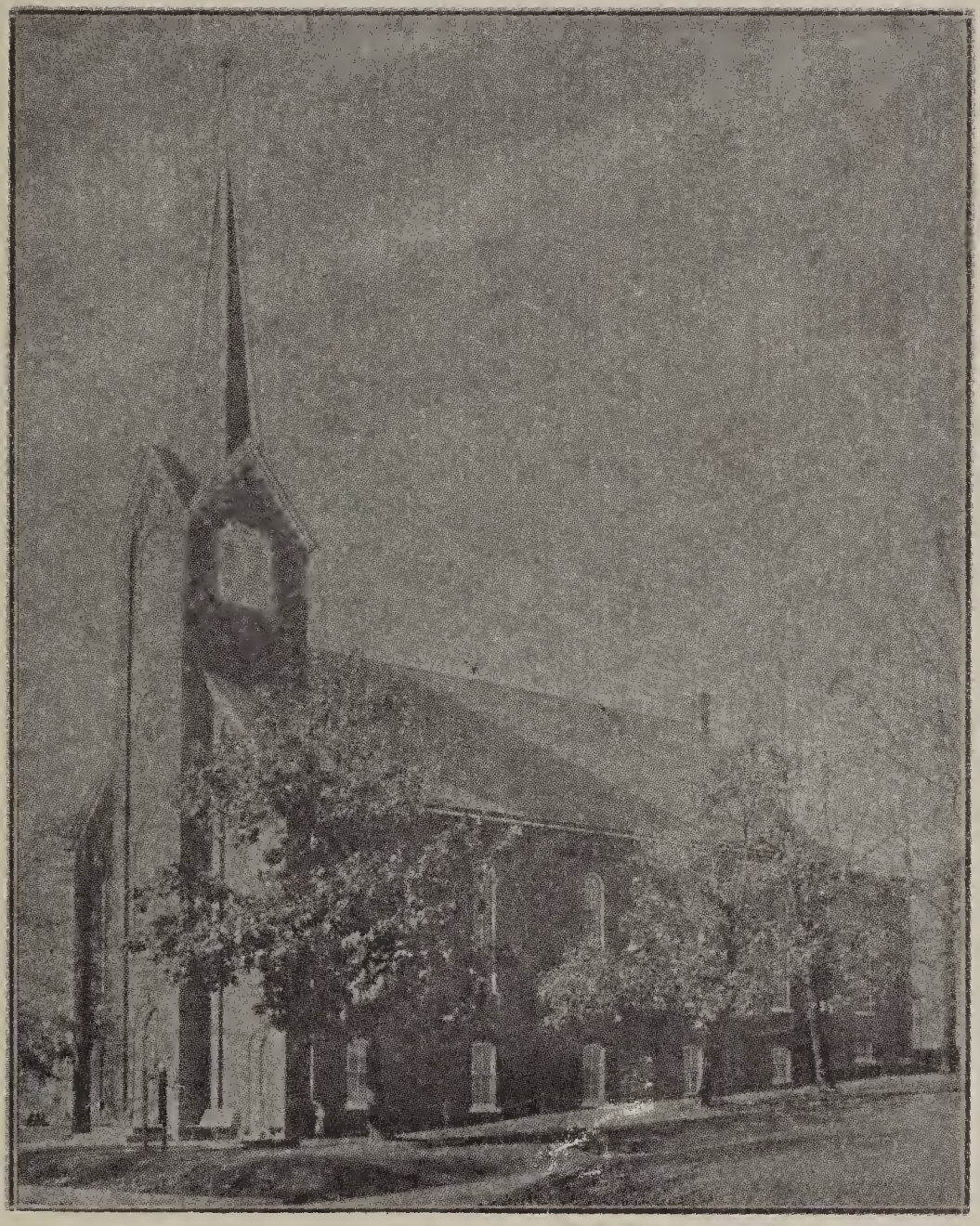
One Hundredth Anniversary

Cedar Church

Cetronia, Pa.

May 22-29, 1955

PRICE $1.50



Dedication

Dedicated to the Men and Women of our congregations of the Past and Present
Whose Lives and Labors Have Written One Hundred Years History

Foreword

When our forefathers, who settled in eastern Pennsylvania came to this country, it was for a nobler purpose than to find gold and then to return to their homeland. They struck out for a new world where they could worship God as they pleased and raise their children in the same faith. When they had settled they founded churches here and there that today boast of a history of 200 years and more. Aside of these churches school houses were erected for the education of their children.

Around Cedar Church is such a cluster of churches. Jerusalem, Western Salisbury; St. Paul's, Trexlertown; Jordan Lutheran and Jordan Reformed. Any one of these has a history much older than Cedar Church. But within this area was a section which became well populated as years went by, and soon a desire was expressed for an additional church.

The following historical sketch was prepared to preserve to coming generations as many of the historical facts as could be gathered. Nothing was inserted which was not founded on fact.

Cedar Church is also evidence of the growth of the community and the religious life of the community. Many can point to this church with pride and say:

"My church, my church, my dear old church, my fathers and my own,
On prophets and apostles built,
And Christ the cornerstone."

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

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Rev. George D. MacNeal, Co-Editor

Anniversary Program

SUNDAY, MAY 22 — 10:00 A.M.

James E. Wagner, D.D., LL.D., Guest Preacher
President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church

7:45 P.M. — FORMER PASTORS' NIGHT

Guest Choir—Jordan Evangelical and Reformed Church

THURSDAY, MAY 26 — 8:00 P.M.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND COMMUNITY NIGHT

James D. Henninger, LL.D., Speaker
President Judge of Lehigh County Courts
After Service. Informal Reception for all members in the Sunday School Room.

SUNDAY, MAY 29 — 10:00 A.M.

Henry Bagger, D.D., Guest Preacher
President of the Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia

7:45 P.M. — DENOMINATIONAL NIGHT

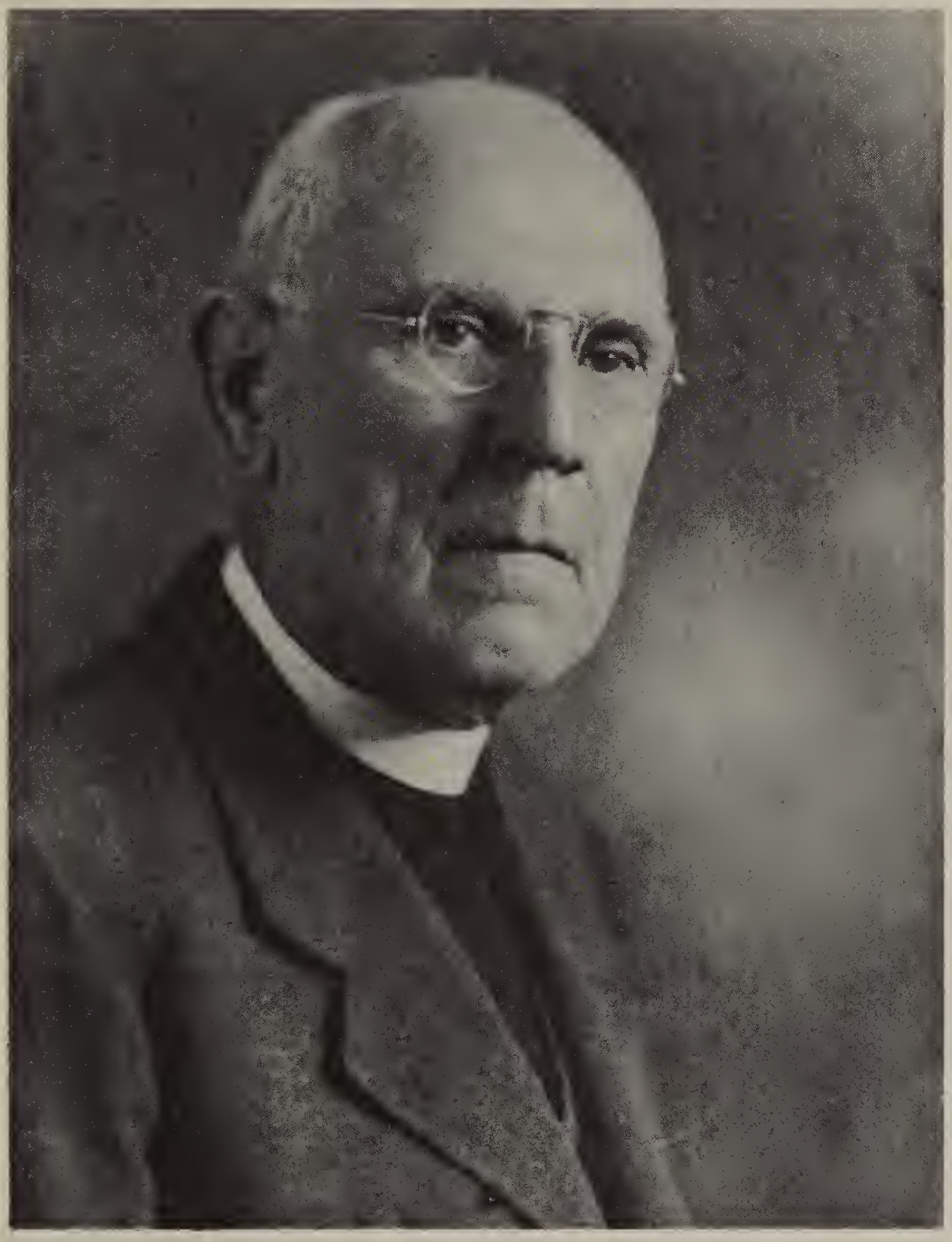
Guest Preachers — The Rev. Ralph R. Hartzell, President of the Allentown Conference of the United Lutheran Church, Ministerium of Pennsylvania; The Rev. Charles D. Rodenberger, President of the Lehigh Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Rev. J. A. Klick, S.T.M., D.D.

PASTOR OF CEDAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Klick was born in Lebanon county. He came from a family that gave seven sons and grandsons to the Christian ministry. He received his preparatory education at Kutztown Normal School, Palatinate College and Muhlenberg Preparatory School. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1899 and from the Lutheran Seminary in 1902. He served parishes in Pen Argyl, Easton and the Hecktown Parish which he served for 32 years. In 1943 he became the pastor of Cedar Lutheran Church. In 1925, after a three-year course he was granted the degree of S.T.M., Master of Sacred Theology, by the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. On June first, when he celebrated his fiftieth anniversary in the ministry, Muhlenberg College gave him the degree of D.D. He resides at 190 Pine Street, Emmaus, Pa.

Lutheran Pastor



Rev. MacNeal

PASTOR OF CEDAR REFORMED CHURCH

George D. MacNeal, born in Allentown, Pa., June 7, 1923, and admitted to Bethany Orphans' Home in 1929. Educated in the Public Schools of Womelsdorf, Pa., graduated from Womelsdorf High School in 1941, received Bachelor of Arts degree from Ursinus College in 1945, attended the Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pa., received Bachelor of Divinity degree in May, 1948. Licensed to preach at the Spring meeting of Lehigh Synod, April 19, 1948, Spinnerstown, Pa. Called to serve the Cedar-Morgenland Charge, beginning Sunday, June 6, 1948.

Evangelical and Reformed Pastor

Joint Board of Cedar Church 1955

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Front Row, left to right: Chester J. Utt, Paul H. Grim, William H. Stephens, Warren J. Peters, Adam W. Stephens, Roland S. Dorney, Abel E. Helfrich.

Second Row: Robert A. Lichtenwalner, Harry R. Labenberg, Morris J. E. Reichard, Robert H. Mertz, Ellis F. Warmkessel, John F. Gaal, Edwin J. Miller, Clayton P. Kuder.

Proclamation

Beim Legen des Eckſteins in Süd-Whitehall, Lecha County.

Im Namen des Dreieinigen Gottes, Amen.

Weil der Herr da wohnen will, wo ſeines Namens Gedächtniß geſtiftet wird, und wo Zwei oder Drei in ſeinem Namen verſammelt ſind, mitten unter ihnen ſein und ſie ſegnen will; weil auch keine Gemeine die Feierlichkeiten des öffentlichen Gottesdienſtes mit Anſtand und Würde und zu ihrer eigenen Erbauung verrichten kann, ohne eine zu dieſem Zweck erbaute Kirche; und weil die Lutheriſche und Reformirte Gemeinen in dieſer Nachbarſchaft kein eigenes beſonderes Haus zur Verrichtung ihres Gottesdienſtes haben, und es doch unumgänglich nöthig iſt eins zu haben, zur Erhaltung der Religion, inſonderheit zur bequemen Anhörung des göttlichen Worts, zur Verwaltung der Heiligen Sacramenten, und zur Beförderung unſerer und unſerer Kinder Seligkeit. Und da die Gemeinen beiderſeits nun entſchloſſen ſind, ein gottesdienſtliches Haus zu bauen nahe an der Ecker Creek, in Süd-Whitehall Township, Lecha County, im Staat Pennſylvanien, ſo iſt es nöthig, der Welt zu offenbaren, zu welcher Abſicht, für welchen Endzweck und für welche Verfaſſung der Chriſten dieſes Haus erbauet werde.

Dowegen beurkunden wir hiermit und thun der gegenwärtigen und zukünftigen Generation zu wiſſen, daß wir hier, heute Dato den 1ſten Mai, als auf das heilige Pfingſtfeſt im Jahr unſers Herrn 1859, unter der Regierung des Präſidenten der Vereinigten Staaten, F. Pierce, und des Gouverneurs von Pennſylvanien, J. Pollock, den Eckſtein zu einer Hochdeutſchen Evangeliſch-Lutheriſchen und Reformirten Kirche legen und daß wenn Gott das Werk unſerer Hände fördert und das Haus fertig wird, daſſelbe dem Dreieinigen Gott, Vater, Sohn und Heiligen Geiſt, auf ewige Zeiten gewidmet ſein und bleiben, und **„Ecker Kirche"** heißen ſoll. Daß es ſein und bleiben ſoll eine gemeinſchaftliche Evangeliſch-Reformirte und Lutheriſche Kirche, worinnen das Evangelium von Chriſto dem Gekreutzigten gepredigt und die Heiligen Sacramenten verwaltet werden, der Lehre Jeſu und ſeiner Apoſtel gemäß, deren Inhalt wir in unſ rm kurzen Catechismus haben, die wir jetzt zu dem Ende in den Eckſtein zu legen, damit man noch in künftigen Zeiten ſehen möge, was unſer Glaubens-Bekenntniß ſei.

Sollten nach uns Menſchen aufſtehen die ihres Heilandes vergeſſen, Gottes Wort und Sacrament verachten und die heilſame Lehre nicht leiden wollen, ſo nehmen wir Himmel und Erde zu Zeugen, daß wir keine Schuld tragen, ſondern rein ſind von ihrem Blut. Dieſes Haus, welches wir hier aufbauen, ſoll ſtets Zeuge für uns ſein, daß wir ein Evangeliſches Chriſtenthum lieben, hochhalten und fortgepflanzt haben wollen: Daß es unſer Wunſch ſei, daß die Verſöhnungs-Lehre Jeſu hier an dieſem Ort den armen Seelen rein verkündiget: daß wir es von unſern Kindern und Kindes-Kindern erwarten, daß ſie nie ihre Verſammlungen und Gemeinen verlaſſen: daß es unſer Wunſch ſei, daß hier Alte und Junge erwecket, ermuntert, getröſtet und für die Ewigkeit vorbereitet werden. Mit ſolchem Wunſch und mit ſolchen Abſichten können wir zuverſichtlich zu Gott hoffen und mit Jacob ſagen: „Dieſer Stein, den wir hier aufrichten zum Mahl ſoll ein Gottes-Haus werden, ein Ort, wo Gott ſeine Gegenwart offenbaren wird.

Gegeben Süd Whitehall dieſen 1ſten Tag des Monats Mai, im Jahr unſers Herrn 1859, und im 78ſten Jahr der Unabhängigkeit der Ver. Staaten und unterſchrieben von den Baumeiſtern wie auch von den gegenwärtigen Predigern.

Und weil Gott ein Gott der Ordnung iſt und alle gute Ordnung liebet und weil er inſonderheit will, daß bei dem Gottesdienſt alles ordentlich zugehen ſoll; und weil chriſtliche Bruder-Liebe und Einigkeit zwiſchen zweien Gemeinen leicht gebrochen werden kann, wo keine äußerliche Zucht und Ordnung iſt; ſo haben wir auch zu dem Ende unterſchriebene Männer aus unſerer Mitte erwählt, welche folgende Regeln abgefaßt haben, die von uns gebilliget und angenommen worden, und auch auf immer zwiſchen uns zwei Gemeinen gelten ſollen, nämlich:

1.—Die Baumeiſter ſollen das Recht haben, bei der Kirch-Einweihung vorzuſchreiben, in welcher Ordnung die Gemein-Glieder bei dem Gottesdienſt ſitzen ſollen, und dieſe Ordnung ſoll von dem Kirchenrath vollzogen werden und alsdann auf immerwährende Zeiten fortdauern. Und die Baumeiſter ſollen nicht das Recht haben, dieſe Ordnung zu verändern, es ſei denn, daß eine Mehrheit der Stimmen von beiden Gemeinen dafür iſt.

2.—Wenn eine dieſer Gemeinen Predigerlos wird, ſo ſoll es die Pflicht des Kirchenraths ſein, die Gemeinen einzuladen, ſich zu verſammeln und einen Prediger durch Stimmzettel zu erwählen, und wann ein Prediger die Mehrheit der Stimmen erhält, ſo ſoll er angenommen werden, mit dem Ausbehalt, daß, wenn er geſonnen iſt die Gemeine zu verlaſſen, er es dem Kirchenrath drei Monate zuvor anzeigen ſoll. Doch ſollen bei einer ſolchen Wahl die Lutheriſchen nicht das Recht haben, bei der Wahl eines Reformirten Predigers zu ſtimmen, ſo auch nicht die Reformirten bei der Wahl eines Lutheriſchen Predigers; und Niemand ſoll das Recht haben für einen Prediger zu ſtimmen der nicht zur Gemeine gehört; das heißt, der nicht getauft, confirmirt und zum heiligen Abendmahl gegangen iſt; und Niemand ſoll angeſehen werden als ein Gemeinsglied, der nicht innerhalb zwei Jahren zugezahlt hat, und wenn er wieder ein Gemeins-Glied werden will, muß er alles Rückſtändige aufbezahlen.

3.—Wenn ein Prediger das heilige Evangelium nicht rein und lauter prediget oder ſeine Amtspflichten vernachläſſiget, oder auch einen laſterhaften Lebenswandel führet, ſo ſoll er von dem Kirchenrath ermahnet werden und wenn er ſich nicht beſſert, dann ſoll der Kirchenrath die Gemeine einladen, ſich auf einen beſtimmten Tag zu verſammeln, um zu entſcheiden, ob wenn eine Mehrheit der Gemeins-Glieder gegen ihn iſt, ſo ſoll er abgedankt werden. Doch muß es ihm drei Monate vorher zu wiſſen gethan werden.

4.—Der vereinigte Kirchenrath ſoll beſtehen aus vier Aelteſten und vier Vorſteher, und zu dem Ende ſollen alle Jahre im Monat November ein Aelteſter und ein Vorſteher aus jeder Gemeinde durch Stimmzettel erwählet werden und dieſe ſollen zwei Jahre dienen. Doch ſollen die Reformirten nicht das Recht haben bei dieſer Wahl die Glieder des Kirchenraths aus der Lutheriſchen Gemeine helfen zu erwählen; ſo auch nicht die Lutheriſchen bei der Wahl auf Reformirter Seite.

5.—Wenn irgend ein Kirchenbeamter wiſſentlich gegen vorhergehende oder nachfolgende Regeln handelt, oder einen offenbaren laſterhaften Lebenswandel führt, der ſoll ſogleich ſeines Amtes entſetzt ſein, und ein anderer an ſeine Stelle erwählet werden.

6.—Der vereinigte Kirchenrath ſoll alle zwei Jahre einen Schatzmeiſter erwählen, deſſen Pflicht und Schuldigkeit es ſein ſoll, alle Gelder die er von Vorſtehern empfängt, in ein Buch zu ſchreiben, welches Buch nebſt dem Geld, das er empfängt, an den Kirchenrath ausgeliefert werden muß, wenn er dazu aufgefordert wird. Und dieſer Schatzmeiſter ſoll einmal aus der Reformirten, und das andermal aus der Lutheriſchen Gemeine erwählt werden; und auf dieſe Art ſoll immer gehandelt werden.

7.—Die Kirchen-Rechnung der beiden Gemeinen ſoll jährlich auf den zweiten Samſtag im December geſchloſſen werden, und die Aelteſten ſollen der Rechnung der Vorſteher durchgehen und dem Schatzmeiſter den Ueberſchuß anzeigen, den die Vorſteher in Händen haben: und ſie, die Aelteſten, ſollen ſelbſt ein Buch davon führen und die Vorſteher ſollen ſolchen Ueberſchuß ſogleich an den Schatzmeiſter bezahlen.

8.—Der vereinigte Kirchenrath ſoll das Recht haben, Geld aus der Schatzkammer zu nehmen für folgende Endzwecke, nämlich: Die Prediger zu bezahlen welches alſo ſein ſoll. Der Reformirte ſoll ſo viel Lohn haben als der Lutheriſche und der Lutheriſche ſo viel als der Reformirte, Kirchen-Geräthe anzuſchaffen, und die Kirche, und den Kirchhof in einem guten Stand zu erhalten, und Reſpegeld für die Deputirten nach den Synoden.

9.—Sechzig Tage, ehe der Lohn des Predigers und Vorſingers zahlbar iſt, ſollen die Vorſteher es den Gemeinen anzeigen, daß ſie ſich auf einen beſtimmten Tag an der Kirche verſammeln ſollen, um den jährlichen Lohn des Predigers und Vorſingers zu bezahlen.

10.—Es ſoll keiner andern Sekte erlaubt ſein dieſe Kirche zu benutzen, ans keinem Prediger zu predigen, anders als ein Evangeliſch-Lutheriſch oder Reformirter, ausgenommen zu Leichenfällen wo keiner der vorbeſagten zu haben iſt.

11.—Wenn etwas vorfallen ſollte welches nicht in dieſen Regeln enthalten iſt, ſo ſoll es durch die beiden Gemeinen entſchieden werden. Die Mehrheit der Gemeinen ſoll immer das Recht haben ſolche Sachen zu entſcheiden.

12.—Der Kirchenrath ſoll den Gemeinen jährlich alle dieſe Regeln einmal vorleſen.

Im Namen der Gemeinen:

Johann Biery,
Salomon Dorny,
Daniel Brobſt,
Philip Knappenberger.

Gedruckt bei Leiſenring, Leeſer & Co., Allentown, Pa.

Proclamation

At the laying of the Cornerstone in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County—In the name of the Triune God. Amen.

Because the Lord desires to dwell there, where a memorial is reared to His name, and where two or three are gathered in His name, to be among them and bless them; because, also no congregation can conduct divine services with propriety and dignity and to their own edification without a church built for that purpose; and because the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations in this vicinity have no special house of their own for the holding of their divine services and it is absolutely necessary to have one for the maintenance of Religion, and especially for the comfortable attendance upon the Divine Word, for the administering of the Holy Sacrament, and the furtherance of our own and our children's salvation. And as both congregations have now decided to erect a house to the service of God near Cedar Creek in South Whitehill Township, Lehigh County, in the State of Pennsylvania, it is necessary to announce to the world with what intention, to what purpose, and for what confession of Christians this house is being reared.

For this reason, we announce herewith, and would have the present, as well as the future generation know, that we, on this 28th day of May, upon the Holy Whitsuntide, in the Year of our Lord, 1855, under the Administration of the President of the United States, F. Pierce, and of the Governor of Pennsylvania, J. Pollock, lay the cornerstone of a Union High German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church, and that if God furthers the work of our hands, and the house is completed, the same shall be and remain dedicated for all times to the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and shall be known as Cedar Church. Since it is to be and remain a Union Evangelical Reformed

and Lutheran Church, in which the Evangel of Christ the Crucified shall be preached, and the Holy Sacrament administered according to Jesus and His Apostles, the contents of which we have in our beloved Catechism, and which we now lay in the cornerstone, to the end that one may in future ages see what our confession of faith was.

Should men arise after us, who have forgotten their Savior, scorn the Word and Sacrament of God, and who wish not to tolerate the saving teachings, we take heaven and earth to witness, that we hear no guilt, but on the contrary are unsullied with their blood. This house which we here erect shall be a constant testimony for us, namely, that we love and cherish the Evangelical Christianity and wish to have it perpetuated; that it be our wish that the conciliating teachings of Christ are to be set forth to poor souls in this place without adulteration; that we expect from our children and children's children that they never abandon their meetings and their congregation; that it is our wish that in this place old and young be aroused, cheered, and comforted, and prepared for eternity. With this wish and with such intentions, we may in all confidence hope to God, and say with Jacob: "This stone which we have set for a pillar shall become God's house, a place where He will reveal Himself."

Set forth at South Whitehall this 28th day of the month of May, in the Year of our Lord, 1855, and in the 79th year of the Independence of the United States, and signed by the Architects or Builders.

In the name of the Congregations:

JOHN BIERY

DANIEL BROBST

SOLOMON DORNEY

PHILIP KNAPPENBERGER

People

By Roland S. Dorney

In view of the lack of church records of every description, in order to establish some authentic knowledge of the background of the "people" who founded and constituted the first congregations of Cedar Church, an exhaustive search was conducted into the history of the families of those men who as the building committee issued a unique Proclamation on the day of Pentecost May 28, 1855 at the laying of the corner stone of the original church. This original record of the church is a sublime document giving expression to lofty aims and purposes and is printed in full in our booklet of Constitution and By-Laws as translated from the German. (Full text appears elsewhere in this book.)

These families may be considered as representative of the whole original membership of the congregations and all can claim a full share of the rich heritage unfolded in this article in augmented form for the first time.

Lehigh County History is the source of a large portion of this article and page numbers where noted refer to this history. Needless to add that if it were possible for every family of the present membership to undertake a similar thorough search, the result would only run parallel to the record here presented and tie in with the glorious heritage.

JOHN BIERY, whose grandfather was Michael Biery who arrived in this country from Switzerland on October 1, 1754 and was a drummer in the Revolutionary war and is buried on old Salisbury Church cemetery. (P. 94) His father, also named John, was baptized at Lehigh Church and married Catherine Troxell. They raised a family of six sons and six daughters. John Biery, one of our leading founders, was the fourth son in this family.

The Biery family was large and of the Reformed faith from the time of Zwingli. A distant cousin, David Biery, donated some of the ground upon which Mickleys Church is built. John Biery's brother Daniel was a prominent official of Western Salisbury Church as also was Daniel's son James W. (P. 95)

DANIEL BROBST, whose great great grandfather, Philip Brobst arrived in this country from Germany in 1720 (31 years before Biery's ancestors) and settled in Berks County as Lehigh County had no settlers north of the Lehigh mountains before 1727. In 1740 Parson Muhlenberg gave Philip and his three sons a small tract in Berks County upon which they built a church. One of these three sons, Michael, married Elizabeth Albright and they raised a family of twelve children, all baptized Lutheran. (P. 153) (See Note Below) John F. Brobst, one of these twelve children, married Lydia Kistler and they likewise raised a family of twelve children. Of these twelve the eldest son, also named John, was the father of Daniel Brobst, one of our founders. Daniel and Sarah Brobst are buried on Cedar Church cemetery as well as others of the family.

NOTE: As evidence of the high christian character of the Brobsts, the following is quoted in full from Page 153:

"Christian Brobst, the youngest child of Michael and Elizabeth (Albright) Brobst, was born Sept. 14, 1767 and baptized Oct. 25, 1767. In 1795 he removed to Catawissa, Pa., having nothing but his carpenter's tools and household goods, as he lost his portion from his father's estate, in worthless Continental money which he stated 'brought him the more to depend altogether on his Heavenly Father.'

In 1799 he built a mill and was obliged, thereby, to contract a large debt. Nevertheless, 'I paid the first debt to Him, whom I owed most.' He devoted the first money the mill brought in to aid in 'building a church, in which with my family and neighbors, we could worship God'."

SOLOMON DORNEY: Henry Dorney, who was his great grandfather, arrived in Philadelphia September 30, 1743 and settled in Whitehall Township (present So. Whitehall). The second of Henry's three sons, Adam, was an Ensign in the Revolution. His children were: Peter, Adam, John, Margaret, Hannah and Henry. Adam Dorney, the second son, married Mary Magdaline Bogert, descendant of Peter Bogert, and they became the parents of Solomon Dorney, an only child, who was one of our founders. Solomon Dorney married Susanna Scholl and they raised a family of three sons and three daughters and another daughter died in infancy. Most of the Dorneys of this area are descendants of Solomon Dorney, however several prominent families are descended from Peter and Henry, above named. Also there are many descendants of Hannah Dorney who married Henry Mertz, a Brigadier General of the War of 1812 and they had eighteen children. Solomon and Susanna (Scholl) Dorney are buried on Cedar Church cemetery.

PHILIP KNAPPENBERGER, whose grandfather was John Ehrhard Knappenberger, who had arrived in America from Germany September 13, 1749. John had five sons, all of whom served with distinction in the Revolution and of whose exploits there is a glorious record in Pennsylvania's Archives. (P. 701) Henry Knappenberger, the third of these five sons was the father of Philip Knappenberger, one of our founders. The Knappenbergers are listed as Lutherans. Philip and Anna Knappenberger are buried on Cedar Church cemetery—Lot #76.

(George Knappenberger, fifth son of John, was Captain of the Company in Revolution in which Michael Biery was drummer.)

JOHN DORNEY, who was Treasurer of the building committee, was a first cousin to Solomon Dorney. His father, Peter Dorney, mentioned earlier was the first Coroner of Lehigh County in 1812. (Mary Susanna Beck Dorney, widow of Peter and mother of John is buried on Cedar Church cemetery close to the church.)

Of greatest interest of all perhaps is the fact that John Dorney was a brother-in-law of John Biery, whose sister (one of six Biery sisters) Elizabeth Biery was John Dorney's wife. John and Elizabeth (Biery) Dorney are buried on Cedar Church cemetery, lower section also at least six of their twelve children are buried on this same cemetery.

Of further interest is the fact that through their large family they may have a greater number of descendants among the present membership than others of the founders although under other names for six of their daughters married into prominent families as follows:

Mary married James Yeager

Lavinia married ~~Edwin Muse~~ Adam Merkle

Matilda married Edwin Muse

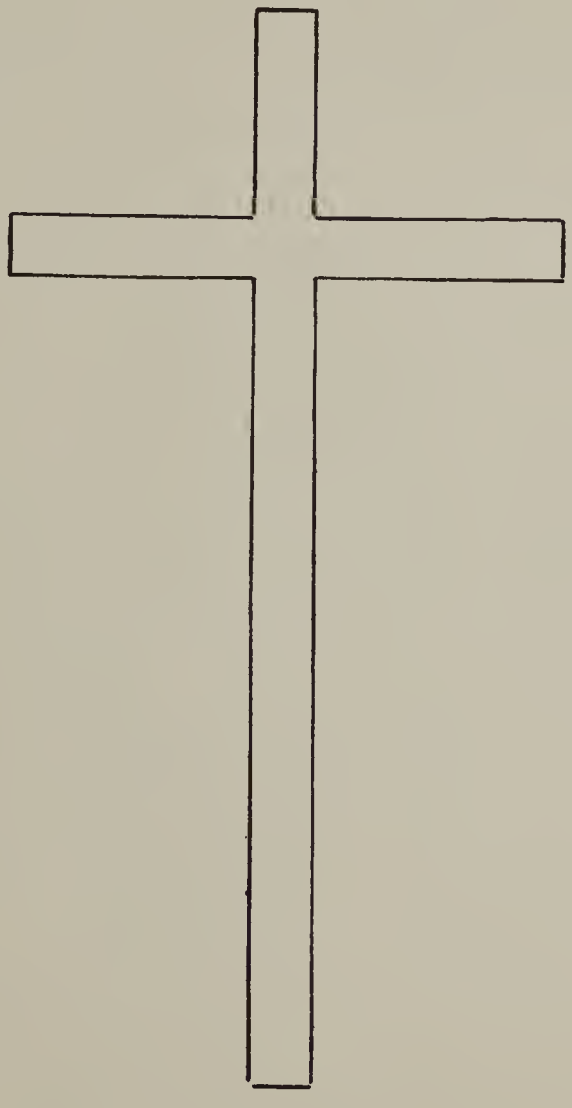
Elizabeth married William F. Ruth

Lydia married Edwin H. Romig

Sallie married Willoughby Kline

PETER ROTH, who was the first Trustee, was a farmer living in the vicinity east of Wennersville; he was referred to as "fuhrman" (teamster). His father's name was John Roth, Jr. and his grandfather was John Roth, Sr. John, Senior was a member of Jordan Lutheran Church and he built a stone house about 1753 on Jordan Creek near Sherersville and Iron Bridge. Peter Roth was the third son in a family of eight children; he married Sarah Newhard and they had a family of fourteen children, five of whom died young. Best known locally perhaps was Paul Roth, the sixth son, who farmed on what is now the John Bohrer farm. The family was scattered and Lutheran churches at Mickleys, Egypt and elsewhere included some in their membership.

The founding of Cedar Church one-hundred years ago follows a pattern similar to the history of other churches established in this country many years earlier and this brief article gives us an intimate knowledge of the characteristics and background of the people and shows that for love of church and country, as builders of the house of God and as patriots, no people exceed the spirit and valor of the founders of Cedar Church and their ancestors.



Old Interior

Former Pastors

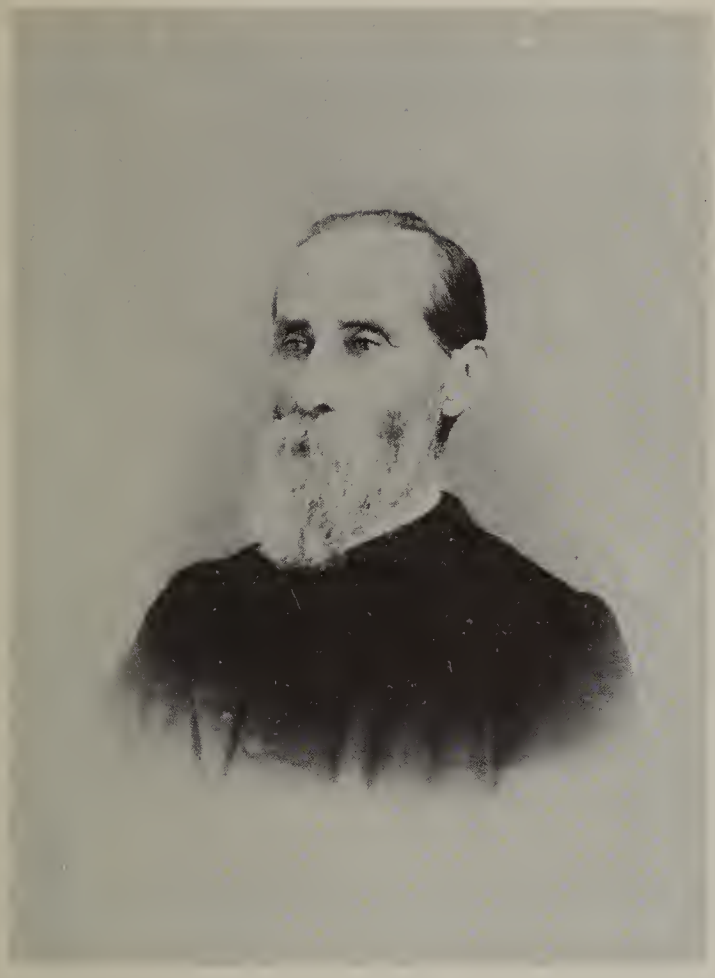
LUTHERAN PASTORS

1855-1861	Rev. Jeremiah Schindel
1861-1866	Rev. William Rath
1866-1904	Rev. Owen Leopold
1909-1910	Rev. Elmer O. Leopold
1911-1916	Rev. Preston Behler
1917	Rev. M. B. Schmoyer, Supply
1918-1926	Rev. W. M. Kopenhaver
1926-1933	Rev. Charles Bowman, D.D.
1934-1943	Rev. Joseph B. Mohr
1943-	Rev. Jonathan A. Klick, D.D.

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED PASTORS

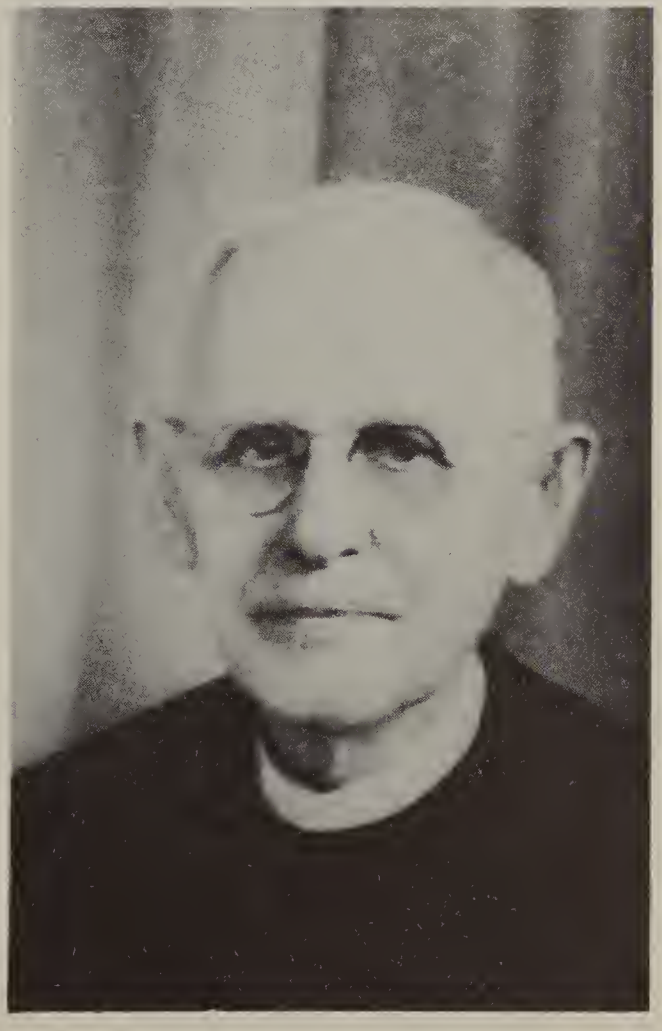
1855-1867	Rev. Joseph S. Dubbs, D.D.
1867-1911	Rev. Edwin J. Fogel, D.D.
1911-1923	Rev. Frank A. Guth
1919-1923	Rev. John L. Guth, Assistant Pastor
1923-1938	Rev. John L. Guth
1938-1944	Rev. George R. Johnson
1944-1945	Rev. Frederick O. Seitz, D.D., Supply
1945-1948	Rev. Leroy M. Kutz, Jr.
1948-	Rev. George D. MacNeal

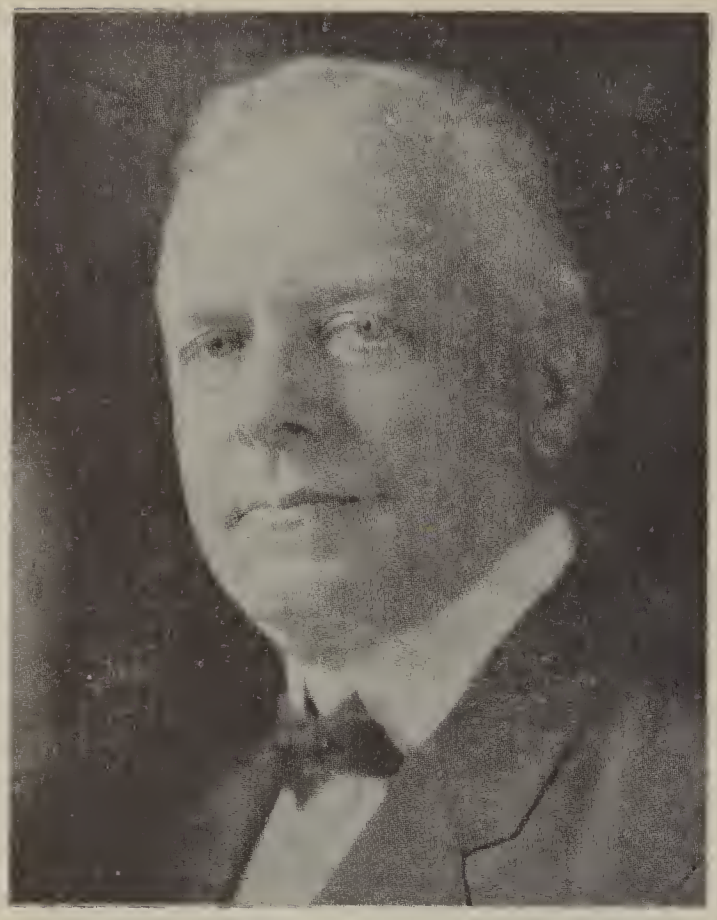
Former Lutheran Pastors



1866-1904 Rev. Owen Leopold

1911-1916 Rev. Preston Behler

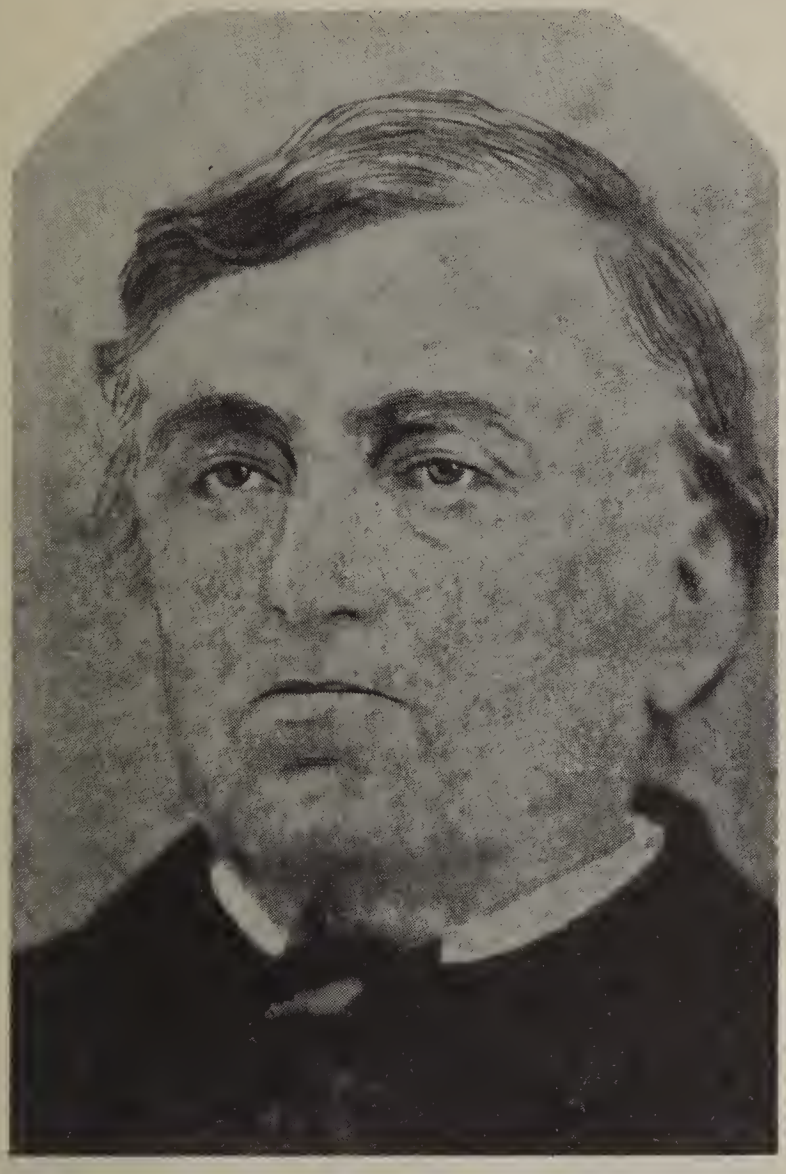




1926-1933 Rev. Charles Bowman, D.D.

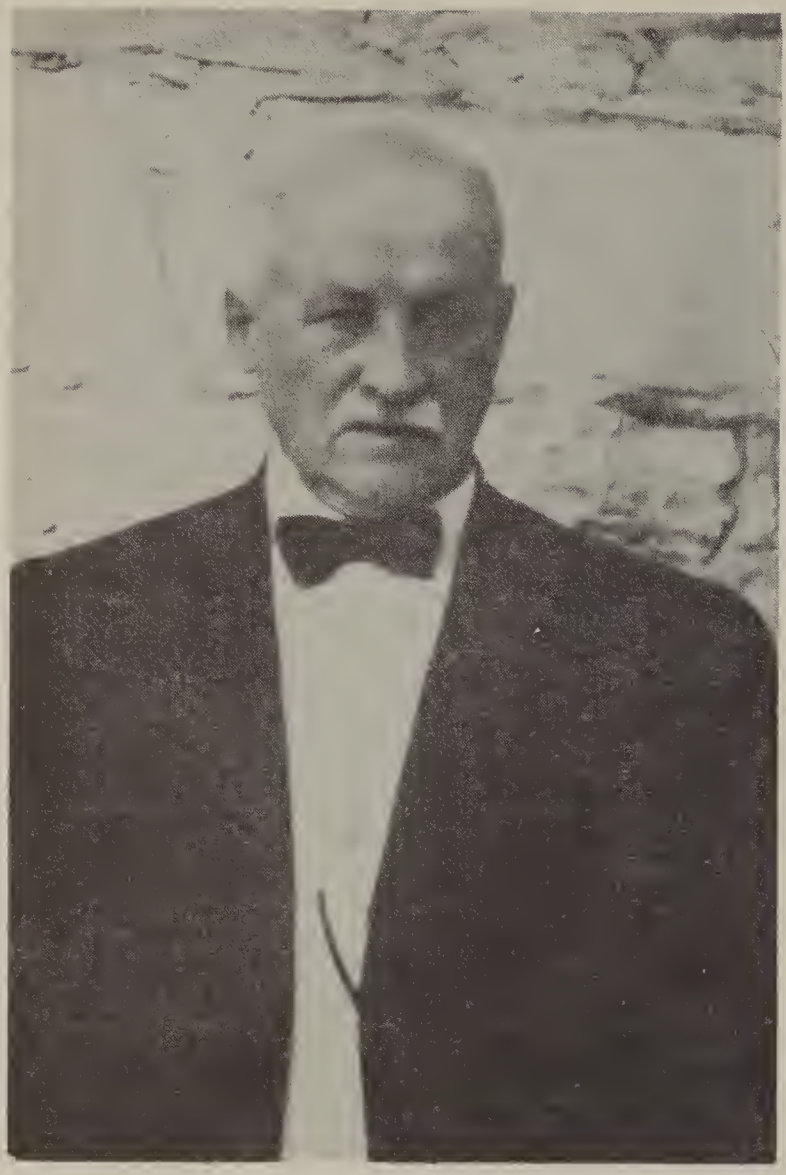
1934-1943 Rev. Joseph B. Mohr

Former Evangelical and Reformed Pastors



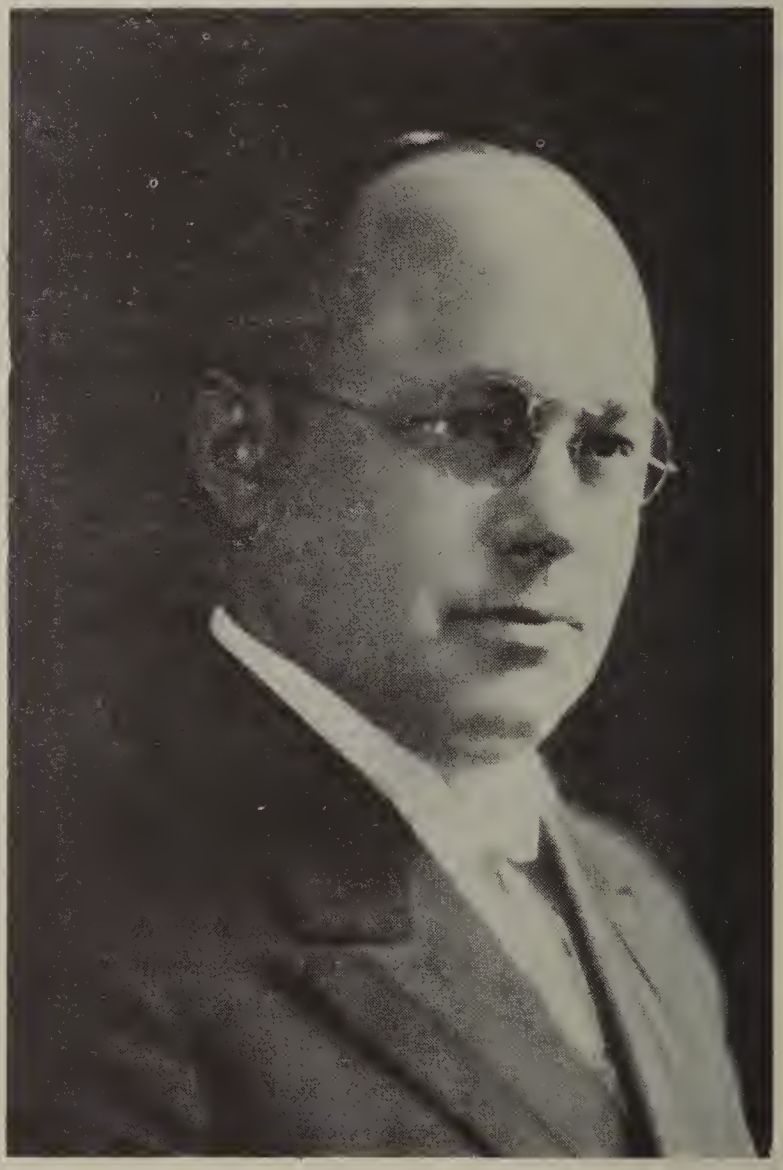
1855-1867 Rev. Joseph S. Dubbs, D.D.

1867-1911 Rev. Edwin J. Fogel, D.D.



1911-1923 Rev. Frank A. Guth

1923-1938 Rev. John L. Guth



1938-1944 Rev. George R. Johnson

1945-1948 Rev. Leroy M. Kutz, Jr.

Old Exterior

The History of Cedar Church

Because of the limitation of time for research, because of the limited records available this history will necessarily be brief and at best, will touch on only the most significant events in life of the church.

The history of Cedar Church dates to December 27, 1854, though there is some evidence of the existence of a group of Reformed and Lutheran members living in Cedarville (now Cetronia) as early as 1830, interested in the building of a church. It was this date however, December 27, 1854, which marks the meeting of a group of men for the discussion of a need for a church building in the environs of Cedarville. The group assigned a Building Committee compcsed of the signers of the Proclamation and including also, Peter Roth as Trustee, and John Dorney as Treasurer. Early in the year 1855 the work of building the first church building began, and our Centennial Anniversary Celebration is being observed on the anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone on Whitsunday, The Festival of Pentecost, May 28, 1855. The church was built on 160 perches of land donated by Mr. John Dorney and 24 perches donated by Mr. Charles Mertz. The contract for the church was given to S. and P. Butz for $2780. The total cost including furnishings amounted to $3517.28, of which $2382.50 was raised by subscription. The first church was rectangular in shape, 40' by 60', of brick construction. Outside steps led to the auditorium and the building was mounted by a small steeple, in which was placed a small bell. This bell and $230.30 was given for a larger bell which was hung in the steeple in the year 1879. The bell is still in use today and weighs 681 lbs. The amount of money, $230.30, was donated by Mr. Charles Glick. This latter bell was hung Thanksgiving Day, October 27, 1879 and dedicated January 1, 1880. The first church also included a gallery in the auditorium which was occupied by the choir and the organ. This first building was dedicated on

Pentecost, 1856. The first Lutheran Pastor was Rev. Jeremiah Schindel; the first Reformed pastor, the Rev. Joseph S. Dubbs, D.D.

Thirty years later, the church badly needing repairs, the generous response of the members of the congregations, decided the issue for the Church Council, whether to repair or to rebuild. The year was 1886 when the rebuilding program began. The demolition of the old church began April 5, 1886; mason-work May 12, 1886; and bricklaying May 26, 1886. The Building Committee consisted of the following Lutheran representatives: Charles B. Klick, J. Warmkessel, J. B. Lichtenwalner, Aaron Saeger, and William Miller; The Reformed representatives were William Laros, Abraham Haas, Henry Faust, Daniel Dorney, Jno. Biery and Ezra Hildebeitel. Thus our present church was built at a cost of $7000.00, exclusive of some furnishings. The size of the church auditorium is the same as the original church, 40' by 60', but includes also a vestibule in the front of the church, a first floor Church School Auditorium, and an addition to the rear of the building housing a consistory room, sexton's office and organ chamber (this rear addition was made circa 1923-25). The cornerstone was laid June 3, 1886 and the building was dedicated May 29, 1887, practically free of debt. In 1888 a Bohler pipe organ was installed at a cost of $800.00.

As has been noted, the records of Cedar Church are at best sketchy, yet these excerpts from the minutes of the Joint Board yearly meetings may be of interest. Minutes of June 24, 1900: "It was decided that hereafter all collections should be taken during the service, the church collection before the sermon, the missions afterward"; Minutes of April 16, 1899: "It was decided by motion that Mr. Heller might give his Graphophone entertainment in the basement of the church"; From an undated meeting: "The meeting adjourned abruptly, more like a riot, than a church council meeting"; May 6th, 1906: "It was decided and announced to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Cedar Union Church

on June 17, 1906." The services at this Anniversary were conducted in German with sermons by the Rev. E. J. Fogel, D.D. and the Rev. E. O. Leopold. (German services continued until 1921, though there were frequent services in English before then). Apparently, renovations were conducted during the year 1915, for on November 28, 1915, re-opening services were held and the offerings of the day were for the Building Fund. Minutes of the Joint Board indicate that individual communion cups were first used in May 1915. In March, 1921, Rev. Kopenhaver was given permission to wear a pulpit gown.

Cedar Union Church celebrated the Eightieth Anniversary and Home Coming on June 23, 1935 with services morning, afternoon, and evening. The Rev. John L. Guth and Joseph B. Mohr conducted services with music under the direction of A. G. Romig. The choirs from Jordan Reformed Church and Mickleys Church joined in the festivities with guest preachers, Rev. Milton Klingaman, Rev. Harvey Sell and Rev. George Laubach speaking at these first anniversary services since 1906.

Upon the completion of an extensive renovation program in 1941, which included improvements made to the building and new equipment, again a day of services were conducted with pastors Joseph B. Mohr and George R. Johnson officiating. Guest preachers included The Rev. Clarence R. L. Rahn, The Rev. Clement D. Kressley, The Rev. William L. Katz, D.D. The cost of the renovations was $7600.00 and included New Church Pews, Memorial Windows and Doors, Auditorium Lights and Fixtures, Linoleum, Carpet, Hardwood floors, Offering Plates, Altar Vases, Rewiring, Plastering, and Painting.

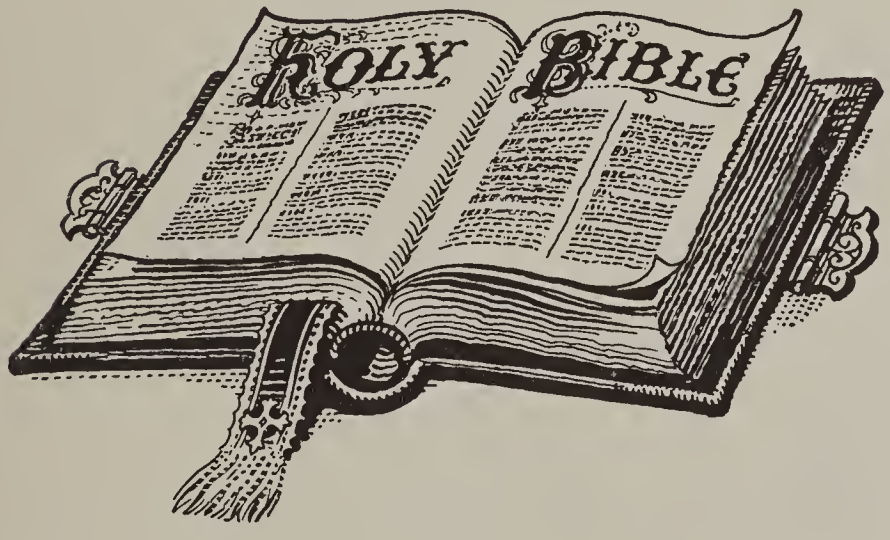
One year later a new pipe organ installed by Paul Fritzche of Allentown and costing $3500.00 was dedicated on August 16, 1942. Except for the installation of indoor toilet facilities under the lower vestibule in 1949-50 at a cost of $2500.00 the physical property of the church remains much the same as at the time of the renovations of 1941.

Mention must be made of the Cedar Church Cemetery which was established in 1865 and continues to this day. Supervised on a sound business and actuarial basis, every dollar invested in perpetual care has been scrupulously invested to assure self-perpetuation.

Neither congregation has supported its own minister. From its inception until 1948 the Reformed Congregation (now Evangelical and Reformed) was a member congregation of the Jordan Charge. Since 1948 it has constituted with Morgenland Evangelical and Reformed Congregation the Cedar-Morgenland Charge of Lehigh Synod. Through the years the Lutheran Congregation has been affiliated with the Fogelsville Lutheran Parish, St. Joseph's Church in East Allentown, and at present constitutes with Western Salisbury Jerusalem Lutheran Congregation the Cedar-Western Salisbury Parish of the Allentown Conference. Each respective congregation of Cedar Church has been keenly aware of its responsibilities to the larger church and for the past ten years at least has met its required share of the work of the denominations of which each is a part. The Lutheran Congregation has responded to the appeals of Lutheran World Action, the Higher Education Fund, The Good Shepherd Home, Topton Home, Muhlenberg College. The Evangelical and Reformed Congregation has realized its significant role in the appeal of World Service, National Mission Fund, Phoebe Home, Bethany Home. The history of both congregations is in reality a history of close affiliation to the respective denominations in ways too numerous to mention including adherence to doctrine, worship forms, and the sacraments and rites, and polity.

The history cited to this point has dealt with facts, figures, and dates. There is another side to the history of this church which can never be written. For who can measure the Spirit of God at work in the lives of the members of these congregations. Who can know the comfort, and the strength and the revelation of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, that it has given through its ministry in this

community. In the final analysis, any anniversary celebration is not so much for the remembering of where we have been, as to know fully well where we are going. May this history serve not entirely for the nostalgic recollection of years gone by but be the impetus, as we rededicate ourselves to the high resolve or our founding fathers in their proclamation, for greater service in His Name, not only in the church we worship, but in the community, nation, and world in which we live.



Present Interior

The Sunday School

1911 Officers and Teachers of the Cedarville Union Sunday School

President ..... Wm. Mohr
Superintendent ..... Herbert Danner
Assistant Superintendent ..... Marcus De Long
Secretary ..... Wilson Rabenold
Treasurer ..... Charles Klick
Deacons ..... Daniel Schaffer, Wm. Haines
Committee ..... A. G. Romig, Ira Haines and Edwin Glick

Teachers:

Bible Class ..... A. G. Romig
Infant Class ..... Lillie Lichtenwalner, Ida Haines
Lutheran Primary ..... Hattie Minnich, Francis Heil, Mayme Keboch
Reformed Primary ..... Adam Diehl, Flossie Diehl

Average Attendance—120 80 in Sunday School 40 in Bible Class
Average Collection—$2.00 per Sunday
Material Purchased—$42.00 Candy and Oranges—$20.00
Attendance board was placed at rear of Sunday School
Business Meetings were only held once a year.

1913 Original By-Laws of 1910 were translated from German to English. Resolutions of Respect were made in the Church School records in case of death of one of its members.

1917 Gifts were given for perfect attendance, names were dropped from roll if absent a quarter.

1923 Teachers and officers unanimously agreed that northern part of Sunday School be excavated and financed totally by the Church School; $300 was placed in the Building Fund of Church.

1928 $200 was placed in Building Fund of Church.

1929 $500 was donated to Cedar Church for improvements of Front of Church and Driveway.

1936 Cedar Teachers' Association was formed, to meet 1st Tuesday in every month.

1940 Bible School was started:
Four benches were removed to allow more room for Primary Dept.
Adult Bible Class went upstairs for their class period.

1945 Junior Bible Class was formed:
Tables and small chairs were purchased for Primary Dept.
Church School was painted — platform was extended — floor was repaired.

1946 Children Hymnals were purchased.
Altar purchased and reading stand.

1947 Curtains were installed.
Reformed Confirmation Class purchased hand painting of Christ above altar.

1950 Additional chairs and tables were purchased for Junior Class, new lights were installed.
Sharon Rabenold Benefit Fund.

1952 Benches were removed; folding chairs were purchased. Floor was covered with linoleum.

1954 Pupils of Church School were provided with New Revised Version Bibles.

1955

President .....Paul Haines

Adult Superintendent .....Franklin Hunsicker

Assistant Adult Superintendent .....Edward Sherer

Superintendent for Children .....William Beitler

Assistant Superintendent for Children .....Dale Steitz

Secretary .....Sandra Hucke

Treasurer .....Ernest Lichtenwalner

Executive Committee ..Adam Stephens, Richard Yeager, Clayton Kuder

Deacons for Upstairs .....Davis Stecker, Roy Yeager, Franklin Delp, Marshall Miller

Deacons for Downstairs ...Roland Spahn, Roger Bealer, Donald Rehrig, Thomas Hunsicker

Cradle Roll Superintendent .....Edna Grammes

Assistant Cradle Roll Superintendent .....Jane Weider

Pianist .....Caroline Thompson

Organist .....Leona Kuder

There are fifteen classes—twenty-nine teachers

Enrollment of 172 children, 238 Bible Class

Average attendance—230

Average collection—$36.00 per Sunday

Total collection of 2nd Sunday in month to Building Fund

Material $833.00 Christmas candy $165.00

The Bible Class

The class had its beginning from an old adult Bible Class that used to be taught by the late Hiram Lichtenwalner. The place where classes were held was in a small room where the Sunday School piano is now standing. The attendance used to be from 20 to 40 adults.

The Progressive Bible Class was organized on April 30, 1911 by the late Will M. Mohr, then President of the Sunday School. Assisting him on the committee were Roland S. Dorney and the late A. G. Romig. At this time the class had a membership of 91.

On June 11, 1911 the name "Progressive Bible Class" was adopted. After the third reading the new constitution and by-laws were adopted on February 11, 1912 and to this date they still stand without alterations or additions.

At the time the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted the membership was 130.

Of those original members the following is their status:

21 Are members at present

35 Still living but have moved elsewhere

26 No information about them

Of the original group of members, their offspring are members as follows:

17 Children

17 Grandchildren

5 Great Grandchildren

This does not include husbands and wives of the original group who became members, or husbands and wives of the offspring. In a few cases parents of the original members are now members of the class.

The present membership is 239. The average attendance is over 100. The attendance has been as high as 135 on a single Sunday.

The first officers were:

Edwin C. H. Glick, President
William H. Keboch, Vice-President
Lloyd W. Mohr, Secretary
Charles Glick, Treasurer
Norman D. Mohr, Deacon
Russell Dorney, Deacon
A. G. Romig

Mr. Romig was teacher from the beginning until 1944 when his health prohibited him from continuing.

Teachers since then have been the two pastors. Each one teaching on his church Sunday.

The class used to receive all adults and all those who were confirmed. In recent years a class of young people has been organized.

Present officers are the following:

Edwin H. Dorney, President
Raymond Bortz, Vice-President
(vacant), Secretary
Mrs. Mabel Lichtenwalner, Treasurer

Those who served as president since organization are the following:

1911 E. C. H. Glick
1912-1915 William H. Keboch
1916-1928 Marcus O. Dorney
1929-1955 Edwin H. Dorney
(also served as secretary from 1914 to 1929)

On many of the Sundays, the record shows that the Bible Class attendance is half of the total Sunday School attendance.

The Willing Workers

One of our very active organizations is the Willing Workers. This was organized in February 7, 1928 and elected the following officers: president, Mrs. Wm. Diehl; vice-president, Mrs. Wm. Kebach; secretary, Miss Mamie Muse; treasurer, Mrs. Abel Helfrich. A charter was secured in June 1936. There were 45 charter members. A tract of land was bought across the driveway in March 1936 for which they paid $1400. An additional tract was bought in 1942 for which they paid $1200. The two tracts adjoin one another.

This organization raised considerable money by quilting and catering at banquets. They gave and still give a lot of their time and labor to this organization. From 1935 to 1954 their income was approximately $34,544. This was not all profit by any means as there were heavy expenditures. In 1942 they contributed $1000 to the organ fund when a new organ was purchased for the church.

In 1953 they celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary with a banquet in the Wescosville chapel. The Rev. Luther Schaeffer of Northampton was the speaker.

The Willing Workers are true to their name. They still meet every Wednesday for quilting and they have many banquets scheduled.

The present officers are: president, Mrs. Harry Rupp; vice-president, Mrs. Edwin Lichtenwalner; secretary, Mrs. Harrison Baumer; treasurer, Mrs. Adam Diehl. The present membership is 65. They have eleven government bonds. When they have their new quarters we can expect still greater things from them.

The Missionary Guild of Cedar Church

Organized—October 5, 1949

FIRST OFFICERS

Mrs. Joel Nester, President
Mrs. Carl Oswald, Vice-President
Mrs. Richard Yeager, Secretary
Mrs. Herbert Ruth, Treasurer

PURPOSE

To unite all the women of the congregations to promote the total program of Cedar Church in the home, the local Church, the denominations represented, the community, the nation, and the world.

MEMBERSHIP

There are 32 women actively participating in this work. Every woman, by virtue of her membership in the congregations of Cedar Church is considered a member of the Missionary Guild.

Regular meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month.

CONTRIBUTIONS

For missionary work — $1,568.66 has been contributed to this work.
A special Missionary project has been completed each year.
A sizeable library of good books has been established.

Program materials from the Womens Missionary Society of the U.L.C.A. nd the Women's Guild of the E&R Church are used in alternate years.

Some special programs sponsored yearly are: the public Thank-offering service in November, when the ingathering of the thank-offering boxes takes place; the variety program of six hours or more for Mission-study with a home-mission and a foreign-mission. Themes are held on two or more consecutive Sundays in February. The World Day of Prayer observed on the first Friday in Lent, (is a program prepared by United Church Women of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America) will be quadrannually held there at Cedar Church in rotation with three other churches in a community service.

There was a chartered bus-trip taken to the United Nations in Sept. '54.

Representation has been had at the School of Missions at Camp Ministerium for one week in July since 1950.

W.M.S. Life Memberships have been presented, by the Guild, to Rev. J. A. Klick, Mrs. Joel Nester, Mrs. William Beitler, and to Paul Rabenold.

PRESENT OFFICERS

Mrs. Frank Hunsicker .....President
Mrs. William Beitler .....Vice-President
Miss Mamie Muse .....Secretary
Miss Louise Sieger .....Treasurer
Mrs. Frances Haines .....Pianist

Senior Choir History

The earliest known records of an organized choir here at Cedar Church, states that such an organization was first formed on February 23rd, 1912, and was called "THE CEDARVILLE UNION CHURCH CHOIR," although there are reports of earlier choirs, there are no records available.

The first choir robes were acquired in 1927, same being a one-piece black robe.

In 1937, the white cape was added, and in 1953, the present gowns, being a maroon robe, with a gray stole were purchased.

In 1954 the name of the choir was changed, and is now known as "THE CEDAR CHURCH CHOIR."

The first record of choir officers, elected in 1915, are:

President .....Mr. Wilson Rabenold
Secretary .....Mrs. Ira J. Haines
Treasurer .....Mr. Daniel Shaffer
Director and Organist .....Mr. A. G. Romig

The present officers are:

President .....Mr. A. Paul Bastian
Vice-President .....Mr. Edward J. Sherer
Secretary .....Miss Leona M. Kuder
Treasurer .....Mr. Clarence J. Walbert, Jr.
Director and Organist .....Mrs. Frances Haines

The following are the names of organists, or 'Singers', as they were known as in early church records, and also the year that they first served here at Cedar Church.

Adam Markle 1856
Henry Zepelfeld 1861
J. Hendrick 1866
E. F. Butz 1867
Horace Beisel 1871
L. D. Brensinger 1906
A. G. Romig 1909
Frances Haines 1944

The earliest known church records state that a melodeon was purchased in 1858, at a cost of $180.00, and in 1887, $800.00 was paid to Samuel Bohler for an organ.

The discontinuation of German singing at church services took place in 1921.

Luther League

A group of young people, impelled by the desire to have a youth organization in Cedar Church, formed the Luther League on January 4, 1948. The officers elected at that time were: president, Jean Bastian; vice-president, Edward Sherer; secretary, Anna Marie Lichtenwalner; and treasurer, William Beck.

Since its inception it has conducted Easter Dawn Services every year.

The lists of addresses of those in the service which have been distributed since Christmas, 1951, have been prepared by this group.

Funds accumulated thru regular Sunday meetings, the Easter Dawn Services and a Block Party held on August 23, 1952, have made possible contributions to the Building Fund totaling $161.50 and to Muhlenberg College of $10.00.

The League has worship and discussion services every Lutheran Sunday evening and also has a social meeting once a month at the home of a member. An added event enjoyed by the members was a banquet held in May, 1953, to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the founding of the League.

Present officers are: president, Earl Walbert; vice-president, Marshall Miller; secretary, Mary Ann Wieder; treasurer, Carl Walbert; pianist, Sandra Hucke; and assistant pianist, Clarence Walbert.

The Children of the Church

Since October 17, 1951 to April 5, 1955, there have been four years of kindergarten activities.

ENROLLMENT		CONTRIBUTIONS	
		Benevolent	Building Fund (Cedar Church)
22 children	(1951-52)	$35	$22.09
19 children	(1952-53)	$35	$17.45
16 children	(1953-54)	$25	$20.36
23 children	(1954-55)	$35	?

The "Children of the Church" are the groups of about 20 pre-school children who met here at Cedar Church on Tuesday afternoons from October to April for 1½ hour class sessions, under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. William Beitler and a number of class mothers.

The lessons used are prepared under the auspices of the Parish and Church School Board of the U.L.C.A. These include coloring sheets and cut-out and paste work-sheets to correlate with a story. Children learn to play with others, to work together and to follow instructions, to print their first name; and through prayer feel God near, and through song and rhythm learn to praise the Lord.

Free-will offerings are received at each meeting to defray expenses and to contribute to benevolent objectives.

Cub Scouts

Cetronia Cub Pack #29 was the first of its kind in all of the Lehigh Council. It was organized and chartered on June 11, 1935 with Robert Arndt Cubmaster and its committee consisted of George Steckel, Sherman Burkhardt and Ernest Uff Chairman. Charter members are as follows:

William P. Bastian
Robert M. Buck
Merle G. Burkhardt
Vernon A. Burkhardt
Rodger S. Egge
Paul K. Haines
Robert Heist
Russell Kirby
Richard M. Klientop
Robert P. Landis
Bruce C. Nester
Richard Mattern
Donald Oswald
Vernon C. Oswald
Robert E. Ochs, Jr.
William R. Pollock
James F. Stahlnecker
George L. Steckel
Ernest F. Uff
Allen J. Wieder

The progress and achievements that Pack #29 has attained are largely attributed to the faithfulness and loyalty of Harry Steitz and Charles Klientop.

The present officers are: Curtis Dove Cubmaster, Howard McLuckie Chairman, Den Mothers Mrs. Edith Kalna, Mrs. Lillian Dorney, Mrs. Violet McLuckie, Mrs. Marion Anderson and Mrs. Jean Kennedy. Committeemen are George Phillips, Donald Smoyer, Ralph Krasley, Elmer Mutchler and Wilbur Haines.

Boy Scouts

Cetronia Boy Scout Troop #29 was organized and chartered in April, 1932. Following are the names of eight boys who belonged to Troop #2 of St. Andrews Reformed Church Allentown, and then decided to organize their own troop in Cetronia. They were Harold Diehl, Adam Stephens, Lloyd Oswald, Robert Plarr, Harold, Robert, Joseph and Wilbur Haines. They then were joined by five additional boys to qualify themselves for their first charter on May 25, 1932. The new recruits were Eugene Carl, Nevin Oswald, Stanley Oswald, George Smith and Wilbur Weaver.

Charles Klientop, also known as the grand-daddy of Scouting in Cetronia, was the first Scoutmaster and he held this post for eight years. Joel Nester was the first assistant Scoutmaster and the Troop Committee consisted of Lloyd Oswald, Adam Diehl, John Wieder, Dr. Paul Ramer, Harry Steitz, Marvin Frey, Edwin Dorney, Albert Bastian, and Chairman William Haines.

Cetronia Fire Co. was the sponsoring institution from 1932 to 1937 of our troop and since then Cedar Church has assumed this responsibility.

Troop #29 participates in the annual Halloween Parade and the Memorial Day Exercises at Cedar Church. The Troop's World War II record is an enviable one including the collection of over 100,000 lbs. of scrap paper, the sale of numerous War Bonds etc. On Nov. 21, 1943 the community service board located at James W. Good School was dedicated under the sponsorship of the Troop. In the fall of 1946 a communnty-wide home-coming celebration for service men and women was held at Dorney Park with over 1000 persons in attendance. The Troop was under the leadership of Forrest Dorney from 1940 until 1948 during which time the above mentioned war activities took place.

The Youth Fellowship

The Youth Fellowship is the organization for the young people of the Evangelical and Reformed Congregation. Organized in 1939 as a venture by the Jordan Charge, composed of the youth of Jordan Morgenland, and Cedar Reformed congregations it has continued to the present, but is now an organization for the young people of Cedar Evangelical and Reformed Congregation. The group meets on the evening of Reformed services and has as its purpose to further the Kingdom of God through study of Youth problems, and the development of Christian character through fellowship in group play participation.

The group has been responsible for providing the Cedar-Morgenland charge with sound motion picture equipment through money-raising projects. Though this has been its major project, it has contributed to the life of the church in many other ways.

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